

C L A I M S:

1. A hood-type annealing furnace, especially for steel strip or wire bunches, with an annealing base for receiving the material to be annealed, a protective hood which is placed on the furnace in a gas-tight manner, a radial blower which is held in the annealing base and comprises a blade wheel and a guide apparatus enclosing the blade wheel for circulating a protective gas in the protective hood, a heat exchanger for cooling the protective gas, which heat exchanger is connected on the input side via a flow conduit with the pressure side of the radial blower and opens on the output side in an annular gap between the guide apparatus and the protective hood, and a deflection device which is axially displaceable into the pressure-side flow path of the radial blower for the optional connection to the radial blower of the flow conduit which leads to the heat exchanger, wherein the protective hood (8) is held in a gas-tight manner via an annular flange (9), that the heat exchanger (11) is disposed below the annular flange (9), that the flow conduit (13) consists of an annular conduit (14) starting from the outer circumference of the guide apparatus (5) and being concentric to the annular gap (12), and that the deflection device is arranged as an annular deflection slide (18) which encloses the guide apparatus (5) on the outside.
2. A hood-type annealing furnace as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular conduit (14) and the annular gap (12) are separated from each other by a cylindrical wall (15) which is held in an axially displaceable way and carries the annular deflection slide (18).
3. A hood-type annealing furnace as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide blades (6) of the guide apparatus (5) are provided on their outer face side with recesses (20) for the deflection slide (18).